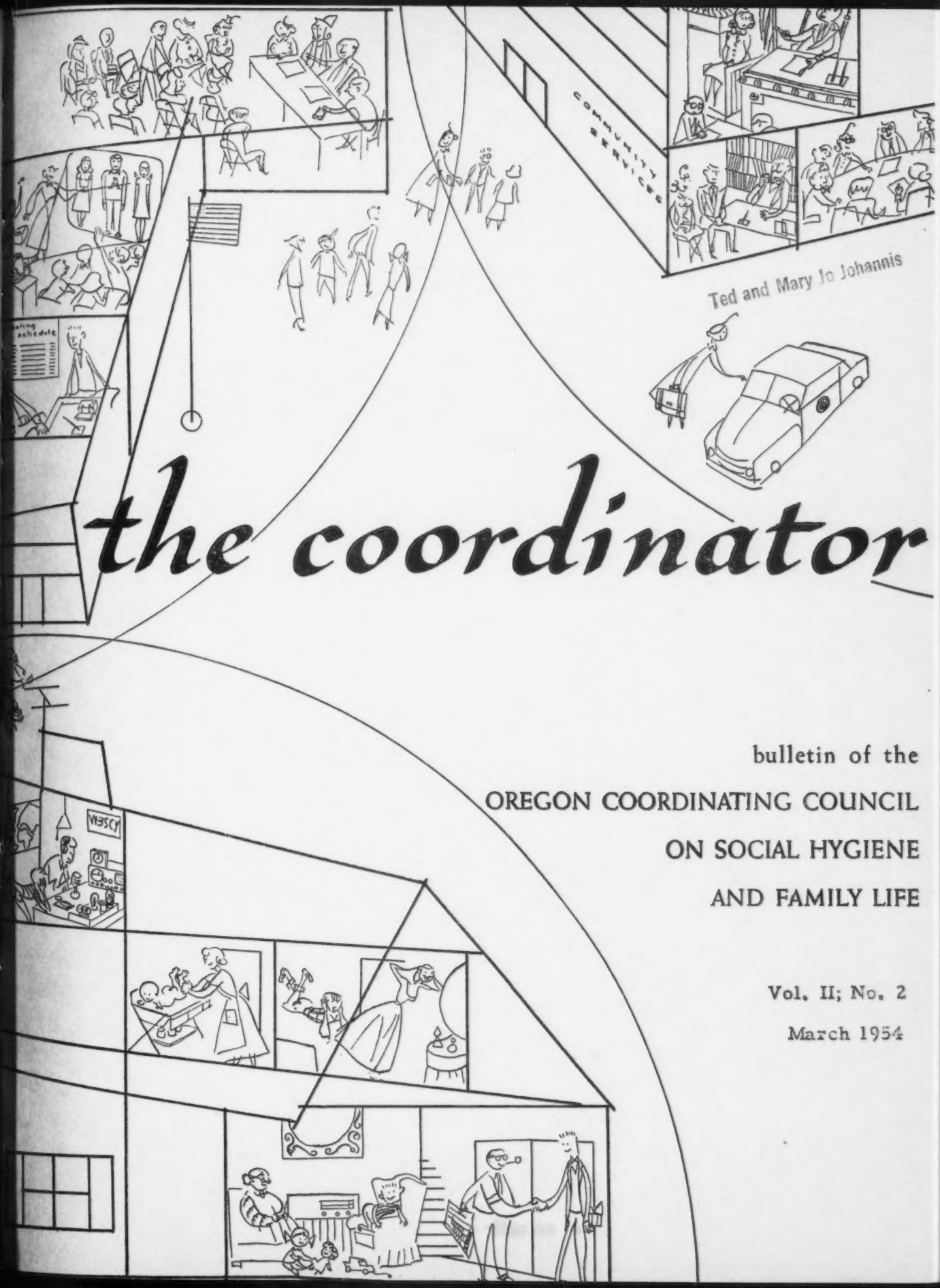

the coordinator

bulletin of the
OREGON COORDINATING COUNCIL
ON SOCIAL HYGIENE
AND FAMILY LIFE

Vol. II; No. 2
March 1954

Ted and Mary Jo Johannis

SEX ROLES TO BE CLARIFIED AT APRIL MEETING

How can "career women" reconcile their special training and abilities with full-time jobs as homemakers--or can they? How about the man of the house who, buffeted by the workaday world, comes wearily home to hear: "Marriage is a partnership--and fathers are parents, too!"

These are samples of the provocative subject-matter to be explored at the coming session of the Coordinating Council, Thursday, evening, April 1, when Dr. Clark E. Vincent of Berkeley, California, will address the group. Dr. Vincent is an instructor in Family Sociology at the University of California. Title of his talk, scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Marine Room of the Multnomah Hotel, is "The Changing Roles of the Sexes and Their Effect on Family Life."

A comparative newcomer to the family life scene, Dr. Vincent assures his audience a fresh viewpoint along with the rich understanding that grows from training which has cut across professional lines. During 1951-52 he engaged in interdisciplinary research at Permanente Psychiatric Clinic, under sponsorship of the Mental Health Division of the U.S. Public Health Service. His Ph.D. dissertation in sociology, completed at the University of California in 1952, was on "Sociological Factors in Psychosomatic Illness."

Dr. Vincent teaches a challenging array of courses: "The Sociology of Child Development," "Family Life Education for Secondary Teachers," "The Contemporary American Family," and a seminar in "Sociological Aspects of Marriage and Family Counseling." His publications include: "Trends in Infant Care Ideas," Child Development, Sept. 1951; "The Sociology of Knowledge in Critiques of Family Sociology," Research Studies of the State College of Washington, Sept. 1953, and "Role Clarification for the Contemporary College-educated Woman," Journal of Home Economics, Oct. 1953.

Married and the father of one child, Dr. Vincent is 30 years old. He is listed as a University Fellow on the Berkeley campus.

Council members are invited to bring friends to hear "the latest" on this much-debated topic of sex roles.

Meanwhile, Program Chairman Jean Bloom has confirmed Thursday, May 20, as date for an all-day workshop on "Parent-Child Communication." Two main discussion groups will be organized under the leadership of Dr. Herold Lillywhite, speech pathologist at the University of Oregon Medical School, and Dr. Willard Spalding, professor of education at Portland State College. Several resource persons in the family life field also will be available, Mrs. Bloom reported. Further details will be announced later.

. . . . . .

The April 1 program, featuring

DR. CLARK VINCENT

is open to all and there is no admission fee! For many, this meeting will be their only opportunity to hear this outstanding authority on an important aspect of family life education. Pass the news around; and bring your friends.

Please register for the meeting by filling out and mailing the enclosed postcard.

HIGHLIGHTS OF N.W. FAMILY RELATIONS MEET

By Lester A. Kirkendall
Associate Professor of Family Life
Oregon State College

Oregon is to host the annual conference of the Pacific Northwest Council on Family Relations in 1955. This was decided at the meeting of this organization held in Seattle, March 4-5, when the group responded affirmatively to an invitation extended by the Oregonians present. The invitation was given in the name of the Oregon Coordinating Council on Social Hygiene and Family Life and Oregon professional workers in the area of the family. The theme and place for the conference will be set later by a planning committee. Doubtless the time will be in early spring of 1955, though that, too, remains to be determined.

That Oregon was represented by a larger contingent at the Seattle meeting than it has been in several years is a good omen for success in the 1955 conference. Those present from Oregon were:

Mrs. Buena Mockmore, Corvallis; Dr. Jessie Brodie, Portland; Mrs. Jean Bloom, Public Schools, Portland; Mr. Keith Bell, Cascade College, Portland; Mabel A. Wood, Frances Van Voorhis, and Mr. Ted B. Johannis , Jr., all of the University of Oregon, Eugene; Mrs. Grace Berg, Medford; Dr. Lester A. Kirkendall, Oregon State College, Corvallis; and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Turnbull, Albany. Mr. Turnbull is principal of the Waverly school in Albany.

The Seattle conference was generally felt to have been highly successful. It was housed in the new and spacious Student Union Building of the University of Washington, which had facilities ideally adapted to a conference of this kind and size. The total attendance was between 250 and 275.

Playing the part of a reporter, I gathered reactions concerning the conference from several who attended. It was generally agreed that it was well-planned and had a good balance between the sections, speakers, film programs, and evening fun festivals.

One of the strong impressions gained was the obvious strength of and interest in the cooperative play group program. This interest was manifested in both Washington and British Columbia groups as having the effect of involving many parents. Results

were evident in the number of those parents who attended the conference and who helped with the program, both in the sectional meetings and in the evening fun festivals.

The film program included a showing of the McGraw-Hill series of films on adolescence (described in the last Coordinator). Another film which created considerable comment was "Roots of Happiness," portraying life in a Puerto Rican family. "The Toymaker" intrigued many, and the significance of "Angry Boy" was considered in some of the sectional meetings.

The conference was divided into seven sections which met three times with the same personnel. The following topics were discussed:

1. The bases for moral judgments and spiritual values; how people establish "value systems" and how they change.

2. New ways that professional and lay people have found to work together more effectively in solving family problems.

3. Effect of the job world on the family.

4. Family life education in college, high school, elementary grades, with special focus on accomplishments in the Pacific Northwest.

5. Initiating new programs in family life education.

6. Counseling, guidance, and other services for the family.

7. Marriage counseling.

Sectional groups ranged in size from about thirteen to thirty. The discussions were summarized and reported back to the entire conference in the Saturday morning sessions.

The family fun festival was planned to give all conference members a chance to enjoy a period of relaxation free from the customary inhibitions of adult life. The effort to accomplish this was eminently successful. To find people of all ages and degrees of skill doing square dance steps, "making like" flowers unfolding, or working out creative dance steps was a most enjoyable experience, especially when I was also involved as a participant.

The two opening addresses were of an inspirational nature. Dr. Jennie Rowntree spoke on "Strengthening Family Ties", and Mrs. Lydia Lynde, Extension Specialist in Parent and Family Life Education of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, on "Enjoying Our Years."

Ted. B. Johannis of Eugene spoke at a dinner meeting on the "Role of Father in a Changing World." Mr. Johannis based his remarks on data obtained from high school age students relative to the family activities which were the sole or the shared responsibility of their fathers.

One of the most challenging features of the conference was a report by Dr. Paul Landis of a family life study tour he led last summer to the Scandinavian countries. His remarks on the Swedish approach to sexual equality, their attitudes toward such matters as sexual standards and women working, and the practical non-existence of juvenile delinquency were thought-provoking to say the least.

Another feature of considerable interest was a panel of high school youth who discussed the program of driver education in their high schools.

Great credit goes to Mrs. Elba B. Crum, last year's president, and her planning committee for the careful and detailed planning which made the conference such a success. Our hats are off to them for 1954, and the welcome mat out to them for 1955.

* * * * *

Editor's Note: At the recent Pacific Northwest Conference on Family Relations the following officers were elected for the coming year: Dr. Lester A. Kirkendall, Oregon State College, Corvallis, president; Mrs. Isabel Elliott, Vancouver, B. C., and the Reverend Van F. Christoph, S. J., Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash., vice-presidents; Curtis E. Avery, E. C. Brown Trust, Portland, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Kirkendall modestly omits mention of his own report on "The Bases for Moral Judgment and Spiritual Values," which several felt was the high point of the Seattle meeting.

HAVE YOU SEEN?

1. The attractive new "dress" (pleasing green instead of neutral tan) in which Marriage and Family Living now appears. The new cover format made its debut with the February, 1954 issue --which, incidentally, contains two exceptionally fine lead articles: "New Perspectives in the Study of the Family" by John P. Spiegel and "Research: New Strength for Family Life" by Nelson N. Foote. Worth underlining in the Foote article are these remarks:

   "The family is not the peculiar province of sociology or home economics or psychology or anthropology. Rather each discipline studies family behavior from its own point of view . . . " p. 13

   " . . . Countless organizations, religiously correct about their financial reports, quite blithely fail to examine whether they accomplish a single iota of the good they profess to do." p. 15

2. Two of the most outstanding articles yet to appear on psychosomatic and psychological aspects of "educated childbirth," both in the March 1954 issue of Child-Family Digest and both reprinted from the New York State Journal of Medicine. (Like authors Harold B. Davidson, M.D., and Patricia Donovan, M.D., we like the term "educated childbirth" better than "natural childbirth.") Dr. Donovan, a psychiatrist, finds that this type of training program can operate as active therapy to reduce anxiety--depending, in turn, on the kind of relationship built up with the obstetrician during the entire pregnancy period.

3. Child Study for Winter 1953-54, which discusses the concept of "readiness" in children. Elizabeth Weller McNeil's article (p. 4), "First Steps Away from Home" described the difficulty and conflict the child experiences with each step toward maturity. And it tells the youngster's readiness for new experiences is related to the parents' ability to accept changes, too.

4. A note in the February, 1954 American Journal of Public Health telling of a valuable publication now available: "Research Relating to Children: An Inventory of Studies in Progress, Bulletin II." In six main categories, this inventory describes 1,000 studies currently in progress--nearly all in the United States. Can be obtained from Clearinghouse for Research in Child Life, U.S. Children's Bureau, Washington 25, D.C.

5. The article "Who Comes First . . . You or Your Children?" by Rachel Rubin in the March Parents' magazine, with its accompanying discussion outlines for parents of pre-schoolers and school-age children. Stresses outlines for parents of pre-schoolers and school-age children. Stresses that unselfishness can be excessive; that children need to learn "give and take," to realize that parents have need, too. While the article itself is not too complete, it poses a provocative subject for group discussion.

KEEPING UP WITH BOOKS

NOW AVAILABLE AT THE OREGON STATE LIBRARY, SALEM

How to be a Better Parent, by Barney Katz. NY: Ronald Press, 1953

This helpful book, written in common-sense vein, translates a wealth of material on child development and family relations into understandable principles for lay reading. The author discusses goals of parents as well as needs of their off-spring, stressing the vital role that the child's feelings play as he works at the myriad tasks of growing up. His provocative chapter, "Discipline Without Punishment" is likely to cause unrest for some readers (who have probably tried at least one of the negative techniques criticized), but there is reassurance in a section labelled "It's Never Too Late!" Sounding a hopeful note, the concluding paragraphs suggest how parents can truly enjoy their children in a spirit of true friendship and affection. Katz, himself a parent, is a clinical and child psychologist in Los Angeles.

The American Family in the Twentieth Century, by John Sirjamaki. Cambridge, Harvard Univ. Press, 1953

The author sets out to summarize the most significant research (largely sociological) on the American family. His work progresses through European origins and influences, institutional aspects of family living, and family dissolution. One of the Library of Congress series in American civilization. For the serious student--not easy to skim through.

Selected Studies in Marriage and the Family, by Robert F. Winch and Robert McGinnis. NY: Henry Holt & Co., 1953

An anthology of articles by outstanding authorities such as Burgess, Murdock, David, Havighurst, Sears, Folsom, Hollingshead, Terman, Locke and Ellis. Organized in a way that makes sense. Includes a brief chapter on the scientific methods employed in the studies; has cross-cultural comparisons along with analyses of relationships within the family. Valuable as a reference work, especially for those without time or inclination to chase down original sources.

Twenty-Five Years of Sex Research, by Sophie D. Aberle and George W. Corner. Phila.: W.B. Saunders Co., 1953

A history of the National Research Council Committee for Research in Problem of Sex. Extensive list of published reports of investigations supported by the committee through 1952. For professionals who wish to follow up or inaugurate such research (outstanding of which was the first Kinsey report).

AROUND THE STATE

APRIL-MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1	--Oregon Coordinating Council on Social Hygiene and Family Life, 8 p.m., Multnomah Hotel Portland
April 8-9-10	--American Assn. of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, N.W. District Meeting, Eugene
April 21-23	--Oregon Congress of Parents and Teachers, Annual Meeting, Salem
April 29-30	--Oregon Tuberculosis and Health Assn., Annual Meeting, Multnomah Hotel, Portland
May 6-7	--Oregon Public Health Assn., Annual Meeting, Gearhart Hotel, Gearhart
May 10-13	--Western Branch, American Public Health Assn., Seattle.
May 13-14	--Oregon Conference of Social Work, Multnomah Hotel, Portland
May 14-15	--Oregon and Washington Psychological Assns., Joint Meeting, WSC Campus, Pullman, Wash.
May 20	--Oregon Coordinating Council, Workshop on "Parent-Child Communication" (place and time to be announced)

THE COORDINATOR

is published (at no set intervals) under the auspices of the Oregon Coordinating Council on Social Hygiene and Family Life. Editor: Margie R. Lee (Mrs. Lloyd F.). Publication office: 220 S. W. Alder Street, Portland 4, Oregon. Tel. CApitol 3545

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